

Emmanuel United Church of Christ

A Congregation of the United Church of Christ

We Welcome you on this Fourth Sunday of Advent
December 18, 2022 - 9:30 AM

Pastor James Cope and Pastor Janice Garinger



Gathering around the Word

Ringing of the Church Tower Bell

Our Life Together

Prelude

The Solemn Declaration

Call to Worship

Sung Response

There are angels among us that may not meet the eye.
There are messages of Love coming from a choir on high.
But don't just look up;
For the way God works
Is to plant more love right here on earth
just like it was with Jesus' birth.

Insert

*Lighting the Candle of Love

*Prayer of Love

Leader: Holy Living God, Blessed Jesus, Guiding Spirit,

All: alight within us your flame of love this day.

Leader: Grant us openness to hear your message.

All: Grant us courage to be your messengers in the world, creating more

love in the midst of fear.

*Hymn

“Angels from the Realms of Glory”

#126 (NCH)

Call to Confession

Unison Prayer of Confession

God With Us, we confess that at times we feel very far away from You. War, poverty, division, and with the wide array of other struggles in the world, sometimes we wonder where You are, instead of asking the question of who we are in this world. We forget we are all Your children. We forget that You are with us, always, to the end of time. In the times of deepest struggle, may we remember that You promised us a sign of Your presence: Emmanuel, God With Us. Your covenant with us, to be our God forever, endures even when we forget. In this last week of Advent, as we draw near to Christmas, may we remember You are with us. As the promises of the world let us down, as the music stops and the celebrations cease, may we know You are with us, now and always. Emmanuel, God With Us.

(Time for silent reflection)

Assurance of Pardon

Leader: Take a deep breath. With every breath, breathe in God's love, breathe out your fear. With every breath, know that you come from God, and you return to God. With every breath, know that you are loved, and you love one another. Breathe deep, for the Spirit is in you. Breathe deep, knowing God's love is within. You are made in the image of God. Breathe in hope, breathe out peace. Breathe in joy, breathe out love.

All: With every breath, we wait for God, and know God is with us, always. Amen.

*Choral Response

“Angels' Gloria”

#125 (NCH) refrain

Glo—ria in excelsis Deo,
Glo---ria in excelsis Deo.

Listening for the Word

A Time for the Children of all ages

Choral Preparation

“Breathe On Me Breath of God”

#191(RED)

Breathe on me, Breath of God,
Until my heart is pure,
Until with Thee I will one will,
To do and to endure.

The Scripture Readings

First Reading
Gospel Reading

Isaiah 7: 10-16
Luke 2: 1-20

Sermon
Hymn

“A Heartening Message”
“**Angels We Have Heard on High**”

Pastor Jim
#125 (NCH)

* Indicates that all who are able. Please stand.
Bold print indicates unison reading.

Responding to the Word

Prayers of the People

The Lord’s Prayer (using debts and debtors)

Sung Response

Insert

**There are angels among us that may not meet the eye.
There are messages of Hope coming from a choir on high.
But don’t just look up;
For the way God works
Is to plant more hope right here on earth
just like it was with Jesus’ birth.**

Call to Offering

Offertory

***Offertory Response**

Tune: O Come, O Come Emmanuel

#88 (RED)

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow
Praise God, all Spirit messengers below.
Praise God, the source of all gifts!
Praise Jesus Christ, whose power uplifts!
Rejoice! Rejoice!
Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.**

***Prayer of Dedication**

**God of love and possibility, we offer these gifts so that they may be
transformed into your good news for the sake of the world. Amen.**

***Hymn**

“The First Noel”

#139 (NCH)

***Benediction**

***Closing Response**

“No Obvious Angels”

#Insert

***Postlude**

